

Oregon Bn. Given CIB for 1st Time Since WWII

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, currently serving in Baghdad, recently awarded its Soldiers with the battalion's first Combat Infantryman Badges (CIB). The badge, which originated in 1941, is an award reserved only for those infantrymen who have fought in battle.

"It was created as an award which would provide special recognition of the unique role of the Army infantryman, the only Soldiers whose daily mission

is to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold the terrain," said the battalion's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conly.

The battalion's Soldiers were awarded the CIB for their role as infantrymen while engaging in active ground combat to help liberate Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

This is the first time the CIB has been awarded to Soldiers in the battalion since World War II.



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Spc. Andres Molero (right), salutes Lt. Col. Dan Hendrickson, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team, after being awarded the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge.

Baghdad Island: Amusing Memories Revived

By Sgt. Dan Purcell
122nd MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- It's not Disneyland, but in its heyday it could boast no other rival in Iraq-Baghdad Island, once the premiere amusement park in Iraq, is being revived.

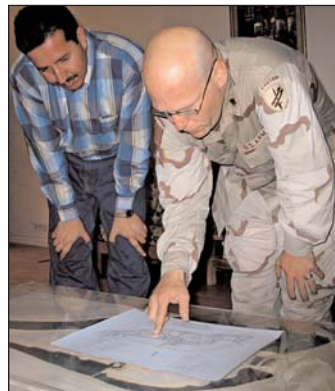
The foundation for the island was laid in 1979 and completed in 1982. It encompasses two million square meters (approximately three kilometers long by one kilometer at its widest point) and daily attendance averaged from five to six thousand people, but during holidays and special days could peak around 50,000 to 100,000 said Nasser Murad, Baghdad Island project restoration director.

"The park was open

until the beginning of the last war in 2003. Prior to that it was the largest theme park in Baghdad and the whole of Iraq...and conceivably, even the Middle East," Murad said.

Since its closure, the island has fallen into a general state of disrepair much of which was caused by looting.

"Our main goal now is to restore the island and open it to the people again," explained Murad. "To achieve this goal, we are approaching it in two ways. First, we are asking for help from the [multinational forces] through their civil affairs teams. Secondly, we are receiving assistance from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, which is in charge of this project."



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

Nasser Murad, Baghdad Island project restoration director and Maj. Charles Andersen, a 478th CA team leader, discuss ongoing renovations.

"We got started here when we saw them working on a project to bring the island back," Maj. Charles

Anderson, team leader, Company C, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment attached. "We met with the director here, and one of the key things he did was show us some videos of the park from the past. They really opened our eyes to what this park is all about, the crowds of people, the attractions and landscaped gardens."

Due to the width and breath of the restoration project, the short-term plan is to have a partial opening to the public within the next year so that people will have a place to go and enjoy themselves. The revenue will help generate funding to complete the restoration one phase at a time.

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Baghdad Amusement Park Undergoes Refurbishment

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"This isn't just a place for families, but a place for young men and women to come and hangout," one Iraqi said. "It's a place for school field trips. The people of Iraq have a history of coming to the island, many even got married here."

According to Murad, in addition to receiving help from the Coalition Forces the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has authorized funding for five new projects at the park.

"The more we commit to do, the more the ministry is willing to help," explained Anderson. "For example, we just completed the children's theater and the ministry is going to install a projector system...it's like a partnership, matching effort for effort. Neither of us has the funding for the entire project because it's very expensive."

The problem, as Anderson sees it is that with most money being diverted to address infrastructure repairs in Baghdad, the island project has become a work in progress.

"It's a fantasy to think that we can do this project all at one time like we want to. So we are doing our infrastructure, road, schools and these projects

here altogether," Anderson cited. "That's why getting this park going will take time because we have to do it in phases."

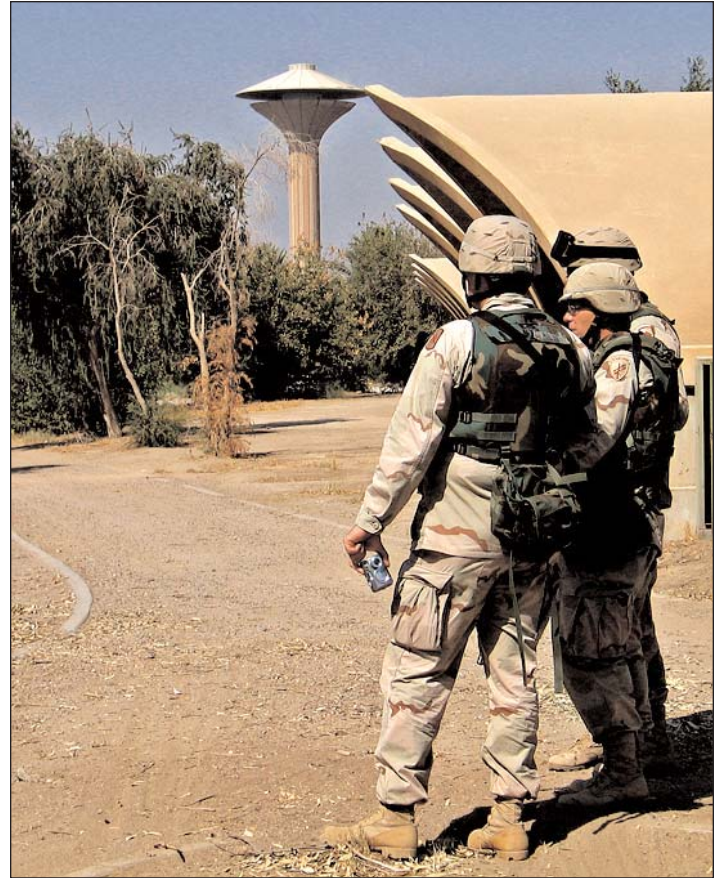
In addition to the financial help received from multinational forces and the ministry, public support has also been forthcoming.

"The public has been generally supportive. We have volunteers tearing down walls, put up by the [multinational forces] when they temporarily occupied this area after the war, and hauling the material away," Murad said.

When the park, located along the banks of the Tigris River, is completed it will sport the most modern rides that can be found world wide, a hotel and a lake with boats to name a few of the attractions.

"Currently, we have completed a sewage system project, installed a children's theater and are working on an athletic center. We are also about to start putting in a swimming pool," Anderson said detailing some of the ongoing projects. "There are many more projects in the planning because it's a huge facility, but this is a good start in the right direction to bring this island back to its original state."

"It's been a team proj-



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

Multinational force Soldiers working in concert with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture take time to assess the current condition of Baghdad Island. The amusement park, which once boasted lush gardens and a five-star hotel and restaurant, is being revived for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

ect all the way, but it's been a personal pet of mine," added Sgt. Jason Jones, of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion. "I figure if you can get people off the streets and give them something to do, then they're less likely to harm someone."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

I don't understand.
la afham

Tuesday

High: 88
Low: 66



Wednesday

High: 90
Low: 64



Thursday

High: 92
Low: 64



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Traffic Jams Lead to Heart Attacks?

BOSTON (*Reuters*) -- In a recent study, researchers have concluded that people caught in traffic are three times more likely to suffer a heart attack within the hour than those who aren't tied up on the road. A study of hundreds of heart attacks in southern Germany published in The New England Journal of Medicine's Thursday edition found nearly one in 12 attacks was linked to traffic. Heart attacks were 2.6 times more common for people stuck in cars, 3.1 times higher for people stalled in traffic while taking public transportation, and 3.9 times greater for those jammed up while on a bicycle.

A Not So Scary Halloween in '04

SEATTLE (*Reuters*) -- A Washington state school district has banned Halloween parties during the school day because it says children dressed up as goblins and witches take time away from learning, officials said on Thursday. "Our number one priority is protecting the instructional day," said Puyallup School District Superintendent Tony Apostle after the district canceled observance of the Oct. 31 celebration. Apostle said the 20,000-student district, located about 30 miles south of Seattle, doesn't have enough time in the day as it is to teach students everything they need to know. Schools that want to have Halloween parties are welcome to have them, she said, but only after the school day ends.

Soldiers Battle Elements, Build Bridge

EL INDIO, Texas (*Fort Hood Sentinel*) -- A group of Soldiers from the 62nd Engineer Battalion has spent the past three months in South Texas battling the elements in order to construct a massive bridge across Cuevas Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande.

Soldiers from Joint Task Force - North, the Department of Defense's counter-drug support unit, and Soldiers from the 62nd Eng. worked

together to construct the 245 feet Bailey bridge for the United States Border Patrol, Lt. Col. Al Riera, a planner for JTF-N, said recently.

The bridge is meant to help strengthen the infrastructure of the border and make it easier for Border Patrol agents to combat drug trafficking and illegal border crossings.

Building the bridge was an uphill battle from day one,

said 1st Lt. Rick Childers, executive officer of Company A, 62nd Eng.

Flash floods, thick mud and sweltering heat were just some of the conditions Mother Nature dealt the engineers during construction of the bridge, said Childers.

Of all the obstacles standing in the way of the bridge's completion, heavy rain was one of the most difficult for the engineers to overcome, said Spc. Jason Gardner, a Soldier with Company A's Earth Moving platoon.

"Every time you pump water out of a hole down here, it fills back up," he said.

The area around where the bridge is being built has a history of being used by illegal aliens and drug traffickers. The bridge, which links two Border Patrol stations, will significantly cut travel time between the stations. In the past, agents had to drive for almost 15 minutes to get from one station to the other.

"Now they cross the bridge in a couple of seconds and they're there," Riera said.



By Sgt. Brandon Krahmer, 4th PAD

Soldiers from the vertical construction platoon of Company A, 62nd Engineer Battalion work to spread nine cubic yards of freshly poured concrete on the east side of the construction site.

Traveling Memorial Wall Evokes Memories in Texas

WACO, Texas (*Tribune-Herald*) -- Two-tour Vietnam War veteran Frank Booker fought to hold back tears Sunday as he sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Sunday at a closing ceremony for the visiting Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica.



Tribune-Herald

Vietnam Veteran Sam King searches the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for names of his friends who never made it home at Heritage Square Park in Waco.

Just 20 minutes earlier Booker had taken an etching off the wall of the name of a fallen comrade. Joe Witherspoon was killed in Vietnam fighting alongside Booker on Dec. 5, 1969, which also was Booker's birthday.

Booker recalled inviting Witherspoon, a machine gunner and friend, to share a care package sent by his mother to celebrate his birthday. But they came under fire. Witherspoon tried to return to his post about 30 yards away but was killed, Booker said.

"For many years I felt like I was selfish," he said. "For years I felt responsible for that."

Booker was among about 200 people who gathered in Heritage Square for an emotional ceremony to mark the replica's last day in Waco and

to honor those whose names are on the wall.

For Booker, who lives in Waco and works at the Veterans Affairs Hospital, Sunday was not his first opportunity to search for Witherspoon's name on a memorial wall. But it was the first time he was able to go through with it.

Although he had been to several traveling replicas in the past, he was overcome with emotion each time and said he was never able to bring himself to find Witherspoon's name.

He even traveled to Washington, D.C., to see the actual memorial, but was unable even to go near the wall, he said.

With the support and encouragement of friends, Booker was able to take another step in what he hopes is a healing process.

Sox Roll to 2-0 Lead in Series

BOSTON (AP) -- The bloody sock is now the very symbol of these Red Sox, a rallying cry in the shape of a stitched-up right ankle.

Pitching again through so much pain it put his start in doubt, Curt Schilling helped Boston move halfway to snaring its most elusive prize: a first World Series championship since 1918.

Backed by another big hit from surprising Mark Bellhorn and unfazed by a defense that still had trouble getting a grip, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-2 Sunday night to take a commanding 2-0 lead.

"I'm a little sore, but it don't matter right now," Schilling said. "Hopefully, I won't have to pitch again, but I guarantee you that team believes in themselves as much as we believe in ourselves."

When he woke up, Schilling wasn't sure he could pitch.

"I couldn't walk, I couldn't



AP
Boston Red Sox third baseman Bill Mueller catches a line drive hit off the bat of St. Louis Cardinals' Mike Matheny during the second inning of Game 2 of the World Series in Boston, Sunday.

move. I don't know what had happened. But I knew when I woke up, there was a problem," he said.

Schilling willed himself to the mound, combining with three relievers on a five-hitter, and kept focused on the main job of shutting down the St. Louis sluggers.

For the Cardinals, it was a familiar and unfortunate pattern. In their 11-9 loss in the opener, four runners scored after reaching on walks.

"We like playing on the road," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "We love playing at home. We're disappointed we didn't get a game here."

10 Killed in Plane Crash En Route to NASCAR Race

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) -- A Hendrick Motorsports plane crashed Sunday on its way to a NASCAR race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of the owner of one of auto racing's most successful organizations.

The Beech 200 took off from Concord, N.C., and crashed in the Bull Mountain area seven miles from Martinsville's Blue Ridge Regional Airport about 12:30 p.m., said Arlene Murray, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation

Administration.

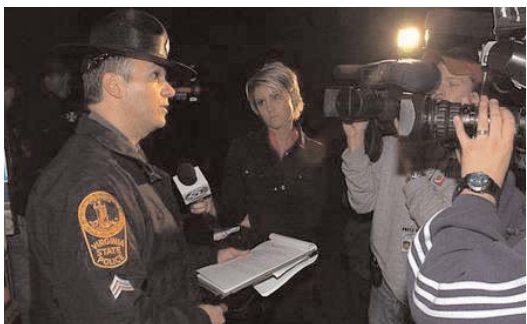
It was overcast and foggy when the plane went down, but the cause of the crash was not immediately known.

Rick Hendrick owns the teams of Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers, who raced Sunday in the Subway 500 in the Nextel Cup Series at Martinsville Speedway.

Hendrick Motorsports identified the dead as: Ricky Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's son and a retired NASCAR driver; John Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's brother and president of the organization; Kimberly and Jennifer Hendrick, John Hendrick's 22-year-old twin daughters; Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont, sponsor of Gordon's car; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Latham, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Dick Tracy and Liz Morrison.

"Hendrick Motorsports asks that those affected be kept in your thoughts and prayers, and respectfully requests that privacy be considered throughout this difficult time," the company said in a statement released late Sunday.

NASCAR had also spoken with Rick Hendrick, who did not travel to Martinsville for the race because he wasn't feeling well.



AP
Virginia State trooper Sgt. R.J. Carpentieri (left) reads a statement regarding the Hendrick Motorsport plane crash in Patrick County, Va., Sunday on its way to a NASCAR race, killing all 10 people aboard.

In Brief

Blonde Bomb's Busby Beef

(AP) -- Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has sent a petition to Queen Elizabeth II urging Britain's monarch to stop the use of bear pelts in making the tall black helmets worn by palace guards. The actress argued that synthetic materials should be used to make the hats worn by guards who patrol the palace gate. The towering black hat, or busby, dates back almost 200 years to the Battle of Waterloo and is a key part of the uniform of the five guards' regiments. But army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Dick-Peter said no suitable synthetic alternative had yet been found.

Arnold Shows Hydro Hummer

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has introduced an environmentally friendly Hummer. The governor said during last year's recall campaign that he would convert one of his Hummers to run on hydrogen. Though he hasn't done that, he did introduce an alternative - a hydrogen-powered Hummer custom-built by General Motors at his request. He drove the SUV to a hydrogen fueling spot at Los Angeles International Airport to tout his plan for a "hydrogen highway" of such stations. Though he arrived at the event in the Hummer, he left in a gasoline-powered SUV. Officials said the hydrogen Hummer needs to refuel every 50 miles and there are only about a dozen fueling stations across the state.